

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
Appln. No. 09/985,856
Docket No. Q67030

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): An engine muffler comprising:

a partition board dividing the muffler having a chamber gas inlet aperture connecting to an engine exhaust gas outlet and a chamber gas outlet aperture into a first expansion chamber and a second expansion chamber;

atthe first expansion chamber having a chamber gas inlet aperture connecting to an engine exhaust gas outlet;

atthe second expansion chamber having a chamber gas outlet aperture;

a first exhaust gas purifier provided passing through a part of the partition board and extending between the first and the second expansion chambers;

a first cover plate, which has an inlet aperture, covering an upstream portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the first expansion chamber; and

an exhaust gas upstream flow-in portion formed by the partition board, the first exhaust gas purifier and the first cover plate in the first expansion chamber;

a second cover plate, which has an outlet aperture, covering a downstream portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the second expansion chamber; and

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an exhaust gas downstream flow-out portion formed by the partition board, the first exhaust gas purifier and the second cover plate in the second expansion chamber;

wherein a wall of at least one of the first expansion chamber and the second expansion chamber has a double wall construction with a predetermined gap interposed therebetween.

Claims 6-7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented): An engine muffler comprising:

a partition board dividing the muffler having a chamber gas inlet aperture connecting to an engine exhaust gas outlet and a chamber gas outlet aperture into a first expansion chamber and a second expansion chamber;

a main body having the a partition board dividing an interior of the main body into at the first expansion chamber and at the second expansion chamber;

a first exhaust gas purifier provided passing through a part of the partition board and extending through the partition between the first and the second expansion chambers;

a first cover plate covering a first portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the first expansion chamber, wherein the first cover plate and the partition are of a monolithic, one piece construction; and

an exhaust gas upstream flow-in portion formed by the partition board, the first exhaust gas purifier and the first cover plate in the first expansion chamber;

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a second cover plate covering a second portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the second expansion chamber, wherein the second cover plate is fastened to the partition with a bolt and a nut;

an exhaust gas downstream flow-out portion formed by the partition board, the first exhaust gas purifier and the second cover plate in the second expansion chamber;

wherein a wall of the second expansion chamber has an opening through which an exhaust gas passing through the first exhaust gas purifier exits to the outside of the muffler, and further the first gas purifier is capable of being taken out for cleaning or replacement.

Claims 9-11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented): An engine muffler comprising:
a partition board dividing the muffler having a chamber gas inlet aperture connecting to an engine exhaust gas outlet and a chamber gas outlet aperture into a first expansion chamber and a second expansion chamber;

atthe first expansion chamber having a chamber gas inlet connecting to an engine exhaust gas outlet;

atthe second expansion chamber having a chamber gas outlet;

a first exhaust gas purifier provided passing through a part of the partition board and extending between the first and the second expansion chambers;

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a first cover plate, which has an introduction inlet, covering a first portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the first expansion chamber;

an exhaust gas upstream flow-in portion formed by the partition board, the first exhaust gas purifier and the first cover plate in the first expansion chamber;

a second cover plate, which has a flow outlet, covering a second portion of the first exhaust gas purifier in the second expansion chamber; **and**

a second exhaust gas purifier provided in the first expansion chamber, wherein the second exhaust gas purifier has an open end facing the engine exhaust gas outlet;

an exhaust gas downstream flow-out portion formed by the partition board, the first exhaust gas purifier and the second cover plate in the second expansion chamber;

wherein a wall of at least one of the first expansion chamber and the second expansion chamber has a double wall construction with a predetermined gap interposed therebetween.

13. and 14. (canceled).